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ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL
PAGE 3

Radical plan is launched to tackle poor air quality

CRACKDOWN ON POLLUTION

Hannah Somerville
hannah.somerville@nqo.com

A RADICAL plan to clean up the air in North Oxfordshire has been launched as it was revealed two areas in Banbury breach nitrogen dioxide target limits.

The Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) was approved by Cherwell District Council's executive this month after a public consultation.

It aims to strengthen local policy to improve air quality, encouraging lower-emission vehicles, zero-carbon developments and fewer private cars.

According to Cherwell, Hennef Way in Banbury is the worst place for air pollution in the district, with Horsefair and North Bar also breaching guidelines.

Report author Sean Gregory of the council's environmental protection department said: "Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts.

"It particularly affects the most vulnerable in society; children and older people, and those with heart and lung conditions.

"The annual health cost to society of the impacts of particulate matter alone in the UK is estimated to be around £16bn."

In 2010, it was calculated that 5.6 per cent of all deaths in Oxfordshire could be partially attributed to air pollution, slightly above average in England.

Then in 2014 Public Health England estimated that 276 deaths in the county that year could be attributed to long-term exposure to dirty air.

The government target for NO2 is 40 micrograms per cubic metre of air, a target missed by both Hennef Way at 59.8ug/m3 and Horsefair at 40.9ug/m3.

On Hennef Way, Mr Gregory added: "Cars are the main contributor (38 per cent) to this NO2 concentration."

To combat the problem the AQAP aims to boosts sustainable forms of transport, such as walking and cycling, by extending green infrastructure links.

It includes measures to promote rail transport, low emission taxis, and to back awareness-raising campaigns.

All major developments must include 'emission statements' and achieve a BREEAM rating, the world's longest-established method of measuring a building's sustainability, of 'Very Good', meaning they are in the top 25 per cent for good practice.

Jackie Fitzsimons, Cherwell's public protection manager, said: "It is vital that as the district grows we take steps to mitigate the effects of emissions which exceed safe limits.

"We cannot pretend that all of the solutions to the problems of air pollution lie within the remit of the district council.

"However, what comes through in the Air Quality Action Plan is Cherwell's commitment to doing everything it can to work with partners at Oxfordshire County Council to promote sustainable transport solutions, and with other agencies which can help us effect change."

A total of 89 homes lie within the affected zones in Banbury.

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Strategy will combat litter

A NEW approach to tackling litter nationally is hoped will help cut the £1.5m spent on clearing rubbish in North Oxfordshire.

Banbury MP Victoria Prentis has welcomed the first national Litter Strategy that was announced by government last week.

Councils will be issued with new guidance on how to make it easier for communities to throw away rubbish.

Mrs Prentis has said she hopes the new approach will help make North Oxfordshire a cleaner place to live and visit.

She said: "Litter has long been an obsession of mine so I am very pleased to see the launch of the first Litter Strategy.

"Given my role in organising Clean for the Queen last year and the Great British Spring Clean, which took place last month, I am particularly glad to see a commitment to boosting participation in national clean-up days.

"I have some exciting new projects in the pipeline focusing on disposable plastic bottles, and I hope that we will soon start to see a greater anti-littering culture."

The new strategy will look at setting up an 'expert group' to look at way of cutting litter including updating local bins and tackling problem areas including plastic bottles and fast food packaging.

It currently costs more than £1.5m a year to keep Cherwell district clean.

Mrs Prentis added: "I continue to work closely with groups such as Keep Britain Tidy and WRAP, and local businesses including Brita, to keep our local area as clean and pleasant as possible."

Town mayor pays tribute to charities as time ends

'People doing voluntary work are so important to the community'

Hannah Somerville
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HIGH praise for Banbury's myriad of charities and hard-working volunteers has been extended by the Banbury Town Mayor at the end of his term in office.

Councillor Gordon Ross will shortly hang up his robes and become 'just an ordinary Joe' ahead of his thus far-unknown successor's inauguration in May.

The Aberdeen-born councillor, who has 13 grandchildren, has spent the past year observing the 'amazing' work of local organisations in the town.

He said: "It has been a bit of a whirl, and tiring, and humbling; you realise how important people doing voluntary work are to the community.

"Wherever I have gone, I've met organisations such as the Rotarians and the Lions, people who work for the community and also enjoy themselves.

"It's quite amazing. That is the lasting impression I will have."

At the annual Civic Dinner on February 24, locals were treated to a 'night at the races' and raised £1,309 for the Citizen Advice Bureau and the Lions Club of Banbury.

Mr Ross himself volunteered as an advice worker Banbury CAB from 1993 until 1997 as well as the Samaritans, his other chosen charity for the year.

He said: "I have a particular affection for the CAB and likewise the Samaritans. There are so many charities out there that could be deserving."

The next councillor, who will be Conservative in keeping with the town's tradition of alternating between Labour and Conservative, will be sworn in on Tuesday, May 9.

On what advice he would give his successor, Mr Ross said: "The thing is to go at it whole-heartedly and do the best you can.

"It's time-consuming and tiring but it's extremely enjoyable."

To request the Mayor's attendance at an event in or around Banbury at any point in the year email info@banbury.gov.uk

Gordon Ross in his ceremonial robes and chain at last year's Canal Day

Blaze damages factory a day after car accident next door

Firefighters tackle the blaze at Swan Foundry and, inset, the BWM jammed into the wall at next-door Laser

FIRE engulfed a well-known Banbury factory just one day after a BMW ploughed into a building in the same road.

Part of the Swan Foundry in Swan Close Road, opposite the entry slip-road to Morrisons, went up in flames shortly before 6.30pm on Tuesday.

On Monday a BMW had smashed into the wall of Laser Sailboats next door.

Swan Foundry quality assurance manager Chris Phillips said the fire had broken out in a small part of the business known as Prop Shop.

He said: "There is no real damage to any other areas of the factors, which as far as it goes is good.

"One small building has been badly damaged. It is the smallest area of the site.

"We are still operational as usual.

"It was quite strange coming just after the BMW incident next door.

"They say bad luck comes in threes. I do not know who will get the third bit but hopefully it is not us."

Three fire engines and eight firefighters were called to the scene to extinguish the blaze.

On Monday one person in the BMW was taken for treatment at the Horton General Hospital after it ended up embedded in the wall.

The incidents are not connected.

Officers abandon probes into nearly 300,000 offences

THAMES Valley Police have abandoned early stage investigations into almost 300,000 crimes in the last four years.

A Freedom of Information (FOI) request by the Liberal Democrats revealed the force, which covers Oxfordshire, is dropping investigations because of a lack of evidence.

Sexual offences, robbery, blackmail and arson are among those that have been dismissed at an early stage.

The practice of screening out crimes, in which a force marks a case as requiring 'no further action', is growing.

The data reveals that in 2016 only 34,359 of reported crimes were investigated, with 100,879 being screened out, whereas in 2015 32,670 crimes were investigated, with 95,182 being dismissed.

Lib Dem leader Tim Farron said the police were screening out crimes because someone deemed them 'too hard or impossible' to solve.

He added: "Behind this colossal figure are victims who haven't received justice.

"This is unacceptable.

"What shocked me was the amount of sex offences and even some weapons offences that had been screened out.

"I hope that Thames Valley Police look at these cases again with some urgency."

In a further breakdown of the figures, the FOI shows that in 2014, 2015 and 2016 more than 2,000 sexual offences crimes were screened out.

More than 57,000 theft offences in 2016 were also dismissed as were 20,355 violent crimes against a person.

Mr Farron added: "The police are doing a good job but these figures show starkly that choices are being made.

"The thin blue line is getting even thinner due to Tory cuts to policing budgets.

"Visible policing has all but disappeared apart from our town centres, leaving many communities throughout Oxfordshire feeling unsafe.

"This has to change."

Currently for 2017 out of 22,552 reported crimes, 9,659 have been screened out. Thames Valley Police has been contacted for a comment.

Have a cuppa and aid hospice funds

New Great British Bake Off judge Prue Leith adds her backing to fundraiser

Hannah Somerville
hannah.somerville@nqo.com

HUNDREDS of charity champions across Oxfordshire are invited to put the kettle on and get baking to raise money for Katharine House Hospice.

The Adderbury hospice provides specialist end-of-life care for free and its 'Care for a Cuppa' initiative is now one of its biggest fundraisers each year.

People are being asked to organise events such as coffee mornings, traditional afternoon teas or even cocktail nights and get together with friends, family and colleagues.

This year the event is being supported by Oxfordshire's own baking extraordinaire Prue Leith, who this year will judge the *Great British Bake Off*.

Prue Leith at home

The television cook, from Chastleton Glebe near Chipping Norton, said: "For 25 years Katharine House has provided professional but friendly and warm palliative care, along with a lot of sympathy, comfort and, yes, fun for the patient, plus help and understanding for families. The hospice charges nothing.

"Care for a Cuppa has been going like a bomb since 2014. I hope you join in the Cuppa campaign by organising your own event or coming along to the one at the hospice."

This year Care for a Cuppa runs from Monday, May 8 to Sunday, May 14 with events large and small held in homes, clubs and societies, town halls and offices.

Those that sign up to host an event today will be sent everything they need to get started and will also be able to download posters, bunting, invitations and other materials from the website. Recipes for a pair of firm favourites at the hospice, Aunty Mary's Chocolate Tiffin and the Katharine House Golden Syrup Cake, are also online.

For more information or to host an event contact Moira Logie in the fundraising team on 01295 816484 or email moira.logie@khh.org.uk

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The unsung heroes of TVP- Police Enquiry Centre: Angela Simmons

The unsung heroes of TVP- Police Enquiry Centre Officers

Crime reporter MICHAEL RACE visited the Thames Valley Police Enquiry Centre in Kidlington to see the call handlers in action and find out what it's like to be the first port of call in a 999 situation

Michael Race
mrace@nqo.com

IT'S a distinct beep in a call handler's ear and they have no idea what is coming next.

A 999 caller could be reporting anything from a burglary, a serious assault or a person standing on the edge of a bridge threatening to commit suicide.

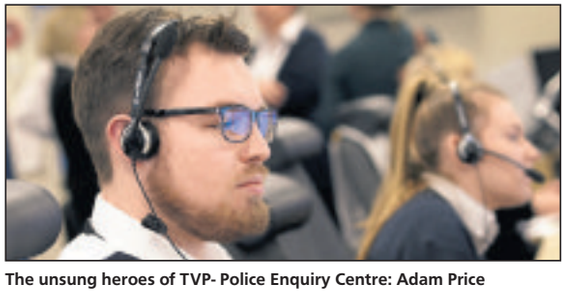
The phones at Thames Valley Police's Enquiry Centre never stop ringing 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

But the skilled workforce of call handlers exert a sense of calmness, despite listening, recording and organising emergency response to members of the public across Oxfordshire in their hour of need.

These unsung heroes have heard it all, and remarkably, as they invited the Oxford Mail into one of their enquiry centres in Kidlington, the 200-strong workforce appeared calm and collected – the complete opposite to most people on the other end of the line.

Operational duty managers Lance Walker and Laura Harwood oversee the centre based at Thames Valley Police's North HQ.

From April 2016 until February 2017 this year, call handlers for Thames Valley Police received 255,156 emergency 999 calls throughout the force area, as well as more than a million 101 calls over the same period.



The unsung heroes of TVP- Police Enquiry Centre: Adam Price

Mr Walker, who has worked for the force for 17 years, said the phone system directs each call, whether it be an emergency or not, to an available call handler with the specific skill set to deal with that specific situation.

The operational duty manager added that staff go through an 'intense' training course, and said an attraction for applicants was the unpredictably of what could be coming next.

He said: "Are you going to be getting someone shoplifting, a burglary in a house or someone saying they want to commit suicide, or that they have been assaulted? You do not know what the next is call is going to be."

Ms Harwood, who has worked in the force for 15 years, said she liked the daily challenge.

She added: "You get asked a different question every single day. Every single day I have to research to find things out.

"You never stop learning. You cannot get bored. It's always that next call."

The busiest times in control rooms are from 8am to 10pm and teams are expected to answer 90 per cent of what they call '9s calls' within 10 seconds and 90 per cent of 101 calls within 40 seconds.

There is never a moment to switch off.

Being the first point of contact before any officers are mobilised or sent out to respond, the call handlers need to remain calm, and get as much detail about locations, injured people and potential dangers as they can.

That is why the call handlers ask as many questions as possible, which they can then use to assess how dangerous a situation

day's an emergency

The unsung heroes of TVP- Police Enquiry Centre Officers: Duty Manager Gary Everett and Christian Bunt

The unsung heroes of TVP- Police Enquiry Centre: Christian Bunt

is and what type of response is required.

They are also urged to keep the caller on the line for as long as possible, until an officer arrives at the scene.

Police enquiry centre operator Angela Simmons has been there for a decade.

The 52-year-old said what keeps her motivated was going home knowing that she had helped people.

She added: "You get the beep in your ear and you do not know what it is. It could be someone screaming.

"It's very challenging, it's very rewarding. You could something simple like a car has been abandoned or you could get a 999 call saying someone has been really seriously injured or hurt. It keeps you very interested.

"It's not like any other job you could ever do. You have to also be alert."

One member of staff said she remembered a caller hiding from an intruder under a bed in a house, where they had to wait and hear the sounds of what was happening, before it was safe for the caller to speak.

Call handler Katie Hearmon, 27, said she had been on the phone to a caller for about an hour in one instance.

She added: "If it's quite a serious call, you can feel the adrenaline get going."

Calls which come into the contact centre are assessed to see how quickly the force should respond.

The enquiry is then sent on to control rooms in Abingdon and Milton Keynes, who will mobilise a response, or arrange for officers to go out if an immediate response is not needed.

Call handlers can also start crime reports and add to existing crime reports which are then passed on to officers to investigate.

The entire Contact Management department has about 1,200 staff spread across a number of sites.

‘Taboo’ preventing people from getting bowel cancer screening

Healthcare expert calls for over 55s to take time out for simple check up

Prof Sergei Dudarev, whose life was potentially saved by early detection via the new bowel cancer screening test

Hannah Somerville
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LONG work hours and the ‘taboo’ nature of the subject are stopping people undergoing life-saving bowel cancer screening, doctors have said.

A team at the John Radcliffe and Horton General Hospitals is calling on all patients aged over 55 to take up their offer of a test as part of Bowel Cancer Awareness Month.

But just 60 per cent of people in Oxfordshire are regularly using the old method of testing, and a new type of screening established in 2015 has just a 45 per cent uptake.

Bowel cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death in the UK and is diagnosed in more than 41,500 people every year.

Terry Tran-Nguyen, manager of the hospitals trust’s bowel cancer screening programme, said: “The early stages of bowel cancer are usually asymptomatic.

“You are unlikely to notice anything. When you start experiencing symptoms you’re already in the late stages and it may spread to other organs.

“Prognosis is much better if we diagnose bowel cancer in the early stages.”

Traditionally people aged 60 and over are invited to take a Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT), which looks for traces of blood in faeces, every two years. The new Bowel Scope Screening Test is currently being rolled out across the NHS and sees all those aged 55 and over invited for a 20-minute test with a sigmoidoscope, a bendy tube with a light and a camera on the end, to look inside the bowel to find and remove polyps which could turn into cancer.

Despite the effectiveness of the test, which can reduce deaths by up to 43 per cent, less than half of those offered it are currently attending the JR for treatment.

Mr Tran-Nguyen said: “With FOBT, it requires you to take a poo sample, which culturally can be a bit of a taboo thing to do.

“Also it might be down to people just not understanding or having the time.

“With the new programme the, most people are still in the workforce so it’s more challenging to take an afternoon to come into hospital and test.

“No-one likes an invasive test that they don’t have any symptoms for, but actually it’s more comfortable than people anticipate.”

Among those to undergo the new test since its launch is Sergei Dudarev, 55, a visiting professor at Oxford University.

He said: “They discovered a slight abnormality so I had a small operation to remove it. Once removed, it showed it contained malignant cells.

“This was so unexpected as I had been feeling fine in every respect. Within two weeks of the operation I was able to do gardening and within a month travel overseas.

“The successful outcome of my case was entirely due to the early detection and diagnosis. The screening programme is certainly worth investing an afternoon of your time to ensure a long and happy life for many years to come.”

For more information on the screening programme call the hub on 0800 7076060.

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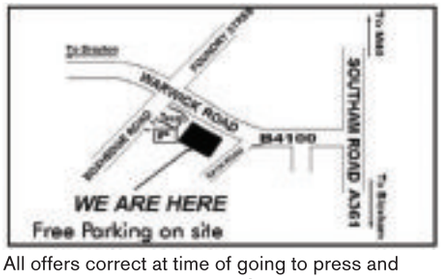

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Surgeries on 'brink of collapse'

Experts warn system in intensive care after bid for extra cash rejected

Georgina Campbell
gcampbell@nqo.com

DOCTORS and surgeries are on the 'brink of collapse' after Oxfordshire lost out on millions of pounds in extra funding to protect the future of GP practices.

Experts have warned that the system is at the '11th hour' amid increased pressure and a lack of funding.

It comes as the county's health bosses were granted £2m of the £50m they asked for to expand and maintain surgeries.

Retired partner at Abingdon Surgery and current Oxfordshire Local Medical Committee chairman Dr Prit Buttar, right, said last night that the crisis would worsen.

He added: "We are not drinking at the last-chance saloon anymore, it is time to pay the barman.

"The dominoes are lined up and we are going to fall, we are on the brink of collapse.

"General practice has been abused by cynical politicians in their quest for a few headlines.

"I cannot help but think that it is only when general practice has gone and it has been replaced by a more expensive and less efficient system that people will realise what they have lost out on."

In a scathing letter, seen by the Banbury Cake, the chairwoman of the county council's health overview committee expressed 'grave concerns' over the lack of money.

Dr Matthew Cheetham, partner of Summertown Health Centre

Oxfordshire LMC Chairman Dr Prit Buttar

Dr Joe McManners, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group chair

The county's health body, the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, applied to NHS England for funding to expand and maintain 21 surgeries including some in Oxford city centre.

But it was only given £2m to be spent on seven GP practices including Malthouse surgery in Abingdon, Deddington Health Centre and Hightown surgery in the Longford Park development, in Banbury.

In the letter to Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt, Oxfordshire County Councillor Yvonne Constance urges him to 'review the level of funding' for primary care and general practice.

She says that the problems have led to the closure of several practices in the county which has had a 'detrimental impact' and increases pressure on other surgeries.

She wrote: "In addition, the CCG is hampered by the lack of funding from NHS England to invest in the expansion and development of GP premises.

"Because of this, a planned expansion of the Wantage Health Centre has been denied just as 5,000 new homes are being built nearby, bringing an extra 12,000 residents to the local area in need of GP services."

Dr Matthew Cheetham, a partner at Summertown Health Centre for more than 10 years, said funding was vital to help safeguard the future of general practice.

He said: "In the last 10 years primary care has been allocated just 7.9 per cent of the overall NHS budget even though general practice and primary care is responsible for 90 per cent of patient contact, this is a huge mismatch.

"If we were to receive more of that budget we could do so much more for patients.

"We will be able to have better buildings, ours for example used to be an old school and it is not fit for purpose for the 21st century, we are bursting at the seams.

"If we had more staff and more space we could offer more appointments and ease the burden on A&E departments."

The CCG would not disclose the names of the 14 surgeries that lost out on funding.

Clinical chairman of the CCG Dr Joe McManners said the lack of funding was disappointing.

He added: "I don't want patients to worry that the unsuccessful bids will mean surgeries can't operate.

"These bids were to look to the future of the surgeries.

"We will apply for another round of funding next year and in the meantime we will be speaking to developers about securing Section 106 money to improve facilities."

NHS England said Oxfordshire CCG's 21 bids were were considered along with 110 bids by other CCGs in the South Central area.

A spokesman added: "NHS England contacted Oxfordshire CCG and asked them to review and reaffirm the list of priority schemes.

"The outcome was disappointing for a number of CCGs and practices in the South Central area."

The Department of Health has acknowledged the committee's letter and said it would respond.

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New county's High Sheriff sworn in

Civic leader 'looking forward' to work in community

Annabal Bagdi
abagdi@nqo.com

THE great and good of Oxfordshire donned their finery as they indulged in celebrations to mark the inauguration of the county's latest High Sheriff.

Wellwishers poured into a packed-out courtroom as Jane Cranston took up the historic role, bidding farewell to outgoing High Sheriff of Oxfordshire Sarah Taylor.

Judges, past and present, united with former High Sheriffs, and a mass of other guests as they enjoyed Miss Cranston's Swearing In ceremony on Tuesday.

Speaking to the Oxford Mail after the lavish affair at Oxford Crown Court, Miss Cranston said: "I feel good.

"I'm really looking forward to the year, there's much to do. I want to raise awareness of the need for the community to get involved [with good causes in the county] and be more effective."

Sporting a velvet robe and feather hat, Miss Cranston vowed to spend her year in post supporting convicts released from jail, along with the county's youngsters.

The former wine merchant stood tall in the courtroom's witness box, revealing plans to work with Oxford-based initiative Aspire to help ex-offenders get back on their feet.

Thames Valley police and crime commissioner Anthony Stansfeld, police chief Francis Hapgood and Oxfordshire coroner Darren Salter were among the guests as the newly-sworn in High Sheriff also told of hopes to support project Safe, which helps young victims of crime across the county.

Youth Challenge Oxfordshire, which supports young people through an 18-month programme designed to instil resilience and confidence, was announced as Miss Cranston's final chosen charity of the year.

Addressing the courtroom, Miss Cranston said: "I stand here feeling very proud and privileged and immensely humbled. I, and we, can't change the world in a year but I hope to make a small difference in the year.

"These three charities, along with many others, do invaluable work rescuing vulnerable people who fall through the all too many cracks in our society."

The 'ancient and honourable' office of High Sheriff, which is an unfunded voluntary post, is the oldest secular office in the UK outside of the monarchy.

Duties include attending civic and community events, supporting volunteers and those in need, taking part in initiatives to unite communities, as well as keeping a watchful eye on the wellbeing of High Court judges when visiting Oxfordshire.

Miss Cranston, who has lived in the county for the past 26 years, was co-owner of former Botley-based wine company Stevens Garnier.

New High Sheriff Jane Cranston with outgoing High Sheriff Sarah Taylor

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Reel story of war

THEIR FINEST *(12A, 117 mins) Comedy/Drama/Romance. Gemma Arterton, Sam Claflin, Bill Nighy, Jack Huston, Jake Lacy, Richard E Grant, Paul Ritter, Jeremy Irons. Director: Lone Scherfig.*

IT'S tally ho and chocks away to a tumultuous period when upper lips were jolly stiff and women on the home front actively served the bomb-ravaged nation.

Based on Lissa Evans' novel *Their Finest Hour And A Half*, Lone Scherfig's wartime comedy drafts frothy drama and heart-tugging romance from its largely British cast.

Inveterate scene-stealer Bill Nighy delivers another masterclass in deadpan delivery and arched eyebrows as a one-time screen idol, whose glory days are far behind him.

Gemma Arterton is a delightful foil, banging a drum for gender equality in the face of chauvinist condescension, with sterling support from the likes of Richard E Grant, Helen McCrory, Eddie Marsan and Jeremy Irons.

The script, penned by Gaby Chiappe, maintains a brisk pace and a light tone despite the grim historical backdrop, celebrating the power of cinema to dispel the gloom during the Second World War.

Gemma Arterton as Catrin Cole and Bill Nighy as Ambrose Hilliard star in Their Finest

"Films: real life with the boring bits cut out," pithily professes one crew member.

Their Finest largely observes these sage words and only permits reality to bite in closing frames when the devastation of the Blitz takes its toll on the key figures.

When her painter husband Ellis (Jack Huston) fails to sell his canvasses, Catrin Cole (Arterton) takes a paid position as a secretary at the British Ministry of Information, which produces propaganda to buoy the nation's spirits.

Roger Swain (Grant) heads up the film division and he entreats scriptwriters Tom Buckley (Sam Claflin) and Raymond Parfitt (Paul Ritter) to unearth a true story of wartime heroism that embodies "authenticity with optimism" and can be immortalised on celluloid.

The real-life rescue of wounded British soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk by twin sisters using their father's boat is just the ticket.

Catrin is asked to pen the female characters' dialogue – dismissively referred to as "the slop" – and she toils alongside Tom and Raymond to give voice to the sisters.

Before production commences, a pompous cabinet minister (Irons) insists the script should include an American character in order to persuade the United States to join the Allied assault.

Thus, handsome airman Carl Lundbeck (Jake Lacy), who is more wooden than the studio sets, is cast alongside ageing theatrical ham Ambrose Hilliard (Nighy) on a shoot that sparks forbidden romance and mutual respect between Catrin and Tom.

Their Finest is a sweet and charming confection with a full conscription of reliable cliches to keep the cinematic fires burning.

Arterton and Claflin kindle a spiky on-screen romance, conflicted about their feelings for each other until a supporting character observes, "When life is so precious, it seems an awful shame to waste it."

Period detail is solid throughout and director Scherfig makes light work of the two-hour running time.

An exceedingly fine affair.

RATING: 7/10

Cake Bookworm

THE Legacy *by Yrsa Sigurdardottir, priced £14.99 (ebook £9.99).*

The Legacy is the first in a new crime series from Yrsa Sigurdardottir, author of the Thora Gudmundsdottir books. Newly promoted, out-of-his-depth detective Huldar is struggling to solve the murder of Elisa. The only witness is her seven-year-old daughter Margret, who was hiding under the bed when the killer struck. But she's traumatised and won't say anything. Freyja, a psychologist from the Children's House, is called in to help. The killer is leaving strange clues in the form of cryptic text messages and strings of random numbers. Can they keep Margret safe and crack the code before he strikes again? This is another tour de force from Sigurdardottir and is sure to cement her reputation as the queen of Nordic noir. A cracking read that will keep you guessing until the very last page.

8/10

White Tears *by Hari Kunzru, priced £14.99 (ebook £8.99).*

Hari Kunzru's tale of white appropriation of black music in the US, that develops into a ghost story linked to Depression-era racism, is beautifully vivid, with the author making the bleakest scenes fizz with life (and death). But this expert literary scene painting is married to a disappointingly obvious storyline – privileged young white musicians (one of them stinking rich) who are searching for 'authenticity', in this case in the obscure world of 1930s Delta blues. The paranormal element of this ghost story is well done, but not chilling, if that's what you want. A story about cultural identity is very much on trend, but White Tears doesn't quite nail it.

7/10

Children's book of the week

Splat *by Jon Burgerman, priced £6.99.*

The latest in a spate of clever concept books for kids, Splat explores 'what happens when you turn the page'. With the first page turn, a pair of eyes and mouth get 'splatted' into a green, tufty blob, to give us our quirky little protagonist, for whom all the subsequent page turns will have pretty sticky consequences. Oh, there's a custard pie on the opposite page little green guy... Splat! Toast with peanut butter and jam... Splat! Water balloons... Splash! You get the idea. Simple, but vividly colourful and sure to make your little splatters laugh out loud.

8/10

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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Family Bushcraft: Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. Learn to make shelters and light a fire. 10am. £20 per adult, £15 per child. 01865 407792.

Glee Club UK Adult Community Choir: Wantage CE Primary School, Newbury Street, Wantage. Learn Glee Club UK versions of rock and pop songs. 7.30pm. Free first session then £18.50 a month. 07900 210969.

Mummers, Maypoles and Milkmaids Family Activity Day: Museum of Oxford, Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford. Visit the exhibition and make a Green Man mask or Morris Man's hat at the family craft trolley. 10.30am. Free. 01865 252334.

FRIDAY

Book reading with author: Soha Housing, Petypher House, Petypher Gardens, Kingston Bagpuize. Published author Sarah Wilson is a tenant of Soha Housing visiting the Soha Extra Care independent living scheme at Petypher Gardens, Kingston Bagpuize. Sarah will read an extract from The Secret Marriage Pact by Georgie Lee which she'll have with her to give away. All welcome. 3.30pm. Free. 07745 80 20 30.

Discover and Play: Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. Forest School fun for the under 5s. 10am. £4 suggested donation per child. 01865 407792.

Knit Knot & Natter: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. Bring your own project and receive tuition in crafts such as knitting, crochet and weaving. 1.30pm. Free but asked to support the museum cafe. 01235 771447.

SATURDAY

Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers: The Church, Mixbury, Brackley. A leisurely seven-mile walk to Turweston and Westbury, starting from the church at Mixbury. Bring a picnic lunch. 10am. Free. 01280 702113.

St George's Day Grand Re-Opening: Clifton Hampden Recreation Ground, Abingdon Road, Clifton Hampden. Join friends, family and neighbours on St George's Day weekend to celebrate the grand re-opening of the village Sports & Social Club pavilion. Family activities, bar, BBQ and overnight camping. 2pm. Free entry and activities. Camping £10 per pitch.

Deer Park Wood Nature Day: Deer Park Wood, Deer Park Road, Witney. Part of the Earth Day celebrations: moth magic, night wanderers, mini beasting, big beasting and plant detectives. 10am. Free. 01865 407792.

Digital Photography Workshop: Steventon Village Hall, The Green, Steventon. Wantage Camera Club is 50 years old this year and this will be celebrated with a one day digital workshop by Gavin Hoey. The theme is 'Lighten Up' and the day will be full of live photography and editing techniques to enthuse and inspire you, so bring along a memory card and have a go on the 'set ups' during the break. For full details and booking information visit www.wantagecameraclub.co.uk. 9.30am. £20 in advance, £25 on the door.

Easter Holidays Trail: Pitt Rivers Museum, South Parks Road, Oxford. 10am. Free. 01865 270927.

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♑♒□♦□♍❒♋□♒♘💻 Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. With professional photographer Andrew Walmsley. 10am. £80 adult, £70 child (14-16yrs). 01865 407792.

Photography Workshop: Corn Exchange, Market Square, Wallingford. Spend a day with photographer Melvin Nicholson, presented by Wallingford Photographic Club. Learn how you can improve your landscape photography. 10am. £15. 01235 812174.

Record Fair: African Children's Fund, 9 Savile Way, Grove. 9am. Free. 01235 766265.

Walk (Fieldpaths): Lay-by at north end of village, Long Compton. SP287331 9 miles. A fairly demanding walk on the Oxfordshire/Warwickshire border with excellent views visiting the Rollright stone circle, the King Stone and the Whispering Knights Grave. Bring refreshments for en route break, pub in Long Compton. The walk passes through part of Long Compton on the A3400. Dogs on leads. 10am. 07808 170418.

SUNDAY

Combe Mill Open Day: Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Long Hanborough, Witney. 10am. Adults £5.00, concessions and children £4. 01993 358694.

National Garden Scheme: Church Farm Field, Church Lane, Epwell, Banbury. Woods, arboretum with wild flowers (planting started in 1992); over 90 different trees and shrubs in 4.5 acres. Paths cut through trees for access to various parts. Lawn tennis court and croquet lawns. Light refreshments - depending on weather.. 2pm. Adult £2; children free.

National Garden Scheme: Hilltop Cottage, Horton cum Studley. Plantaholic's large cottage garden with productive vegetable plot, soft fruit and ornamentals. Herbaceous beds and shrubbery. Small trees including Acer griseum and Sorbus spp. Colour in April with shrubs and bulbs. Path with narrow steps. Limited wheelchair access. Home-made teas at Studley Barn. Combined opening with Upper Green. 2pm. Combined Adult £5; children free.

National Garden Scheme: Upper Green, Brill Road, Horton cum Studley. Mature half-acre garden with gravel area, mixed borders, potager, bog area and pond. Variety of snowdrops, Spring colour with marsh marigolds, hellebores, euphorbias, fritillaries and other bulbs. Perennials, ferns, grasses and shrubs provide year-round interest. Plant list for each bed. Sculptures by Sophie Thompson. Limited wheelchair access. Home-made teas at Studley Farmhouse. Combined opening with Hilltop Cottage. 2pm. Combined Adult £5; children free. 01865 351310.

Ramblers walk: Upper High Street car park, Thame. Leisurely four-mile Introductory Walk followed by coffee and cake in Christchurch Hall. 10am. 01844 215624.

MONDAY

Plants, Borders and Gardens: Hailey Village Hall, Middletown, Hailey. Hailey Garden Club talk with Timothy Walker. 7.30pm. Free to members, visitors £2. 01993 899125.

Women's Self Defence and Fitness Class: The Pavilion, Roosevelt Road, Long Hanborough. Ages from 13 upwards welcome. 8pm. £5. 07834 022463.

TUESDAY

Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers: The layby next to the Royal Sun, Begbroke. A leisurely five-mile walk from Begbroke to Bladon and back. 10am. Free. 07939 826412.

Ramblers walk: Ibstone Common, Ibstone. 6½ mile walk via Wormsley Valley and Christmas Common with a pub stop at the end. 10am. 07772 867681.

Wednesday

Fascinators: No Two Things, 120 Broadway, Didcot. Using vintage fabrics, vintage buttons, Japanese fabrics and embellishments. Booking essential. 7pm. £30. 01235 511550.

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

Drama and singing classes for adults: Rose Hill Community Centre, Carole's Way, Oxford. Taught by local actors, directors, singers and vocal coaches. Fun, friendly environment. No experience necessary. 10.30am. £15 per session. 07768518967.

Grove RFC Ladies Rugby: Grove RFC, Recreation Lane, Grove. 7pm. Annual membership £70 after three free sessions. 07970292322.

Spring Flowering Perennials: High Street Methodist Church, High Street, Witney. Talk by Rosie Hardy of Hardy's Plants. 7.30pm. £3 for visitors £1 for members includes coffee/tea. 01993 702444.

Walk (Fieldpaths): South Park, Entrance at bottom of Headington Hill, Headington. SP528063 4 miles An afternoon walk through the backways of Old Headington, looking at the history of some of the buildings. Hilly at start, crossing Headley Way and walking along roads. Refreshment break. Assistance dogs only. 2pm. 07711564311.

Witney Bytomic Taekwondo Classes: Wood Green School, Woodstock Road, Witney. 7pm. Monthly fees apply. 01844 281888.

World of Watercolours with Gary Bosher – Group Art Classes: West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road, Oxford. All levels and ages welcome. 10.30am. £15 taster / £17.50 thereafter. 07752 792477.

Music

THURSDAY

Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, St Hilda's College, Oxford: Moving Music. 11.30am-12.30pm with refreshments from 11am; 2pm-3pm with refreshments from 1.30pm. Songs and arias with Christine Cairns and friends. All are welcome, particularly people living with dementia along with their family, friends and carers. £5 on the door (carers free). 11am. 01865 286660.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: Dan Owen. Soulful singer-songwriter. 7pm. £8 (adv).

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: The Lounge Kittens. Close harmony heavy metal cabaret. 7pm. £8.50.

The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street, Oxford: My Diablo, Quarter Melon, Firegazers. Metal, indie rock and folk. 7pm. £7.

The Cock Inn, Combe: Nick Gill. Classic jazz and ragtime piano/vocals. 8pm. Free.

FRIDAY

The White House, Abingdon Road, Oxford: Special Folk Weekend Oxford 'Come All Ye'. £2. 8.30pm. 01865 768128.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Coast To Coast, Better Than Never, One State Drive, The Last To Leave. Birmingham pop-punk band on UK tour. 7pm. £8.

The Queen's Head, 26 Church Road, Horspath: Steamroller. Oxford band. 9pm.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: New Street Adventure. Soul-pop band promoting second album 'Stubborn Sons'. 7pm. £10.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Palace, Willie J Healey. Blues-rockers on UK tour. 7pm. £11.

SATURDAY

Headington Conservative Club, 60 Windmill Road, Headington: Country & Western with the Ian Highland Band. £5. 8pm. 01865 439400.

Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street, Oxford: Leonore Trio. Benjamin Nabarro on violin, Gemma Rosefield on cello and Tim Horton on piano perform three pieces of chamber music including Mendelssohn's Trio no.1 in D minor op.49. £20. 7.30pm.

Marston Royal British Legion, Hadow Road, Marston: Redwing. Free. 8pm. 01865 243991.

Pitt Rivers Museum, South Parks Road, Oxford: Folk Weekend. Storytelling, songs, games and music workshops. Suitable for children of all ages. Please ensure that children are accompanied by an adult. Free. 11am. 01865 270927.

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Wild Willy Barrett's French Connection. £12.50. 8pm. 01865 263990.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Electric Six, Nightmares From The Discotheque. Detroit alt-rockers promoting latest album 'Fresh Blood For Tired Vampyres'. 7pm. £15.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: Rusty Shackle. Folk/acoustic roots rock. 7pm. £8 advance, £10 OTD.

Cricketers Arms, 102 Temple Road, Oxford: Uprooted. Covers duo. 8pm. Free.

SUNDAY

Elderbank Hall, Station Road, Brize Norton: Nickolas Martin in Concert. £7. 2.15pm. 01993 843985.

Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, St Hilda's College, Oxford: French Horn Cushion Concerts. 10am and 11am under 5s, 12pm over 5s. £5 single, £16 family (four people), under 1s free. 01865 286660.

Seacourt Bridge, West Way, Botley: Glam Res. Free. 9pm. 01865 243636.

Trinity College Chapel, Broad Street, Oxford: 'Come and Sing Hour' with OU Chorus. Come and sing 'Zadok the Priest' for an hour with Oxford University Chorus. Followed by Free. 2pm. 07860 807183.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: The Reaper, My Diablo, K-Lacura. Rock and metal battle of the bands. 7pm. £5 (adv), £7 (otd).

Oxford Wine Café, 38 South Parade, Summertown: Stoll, Oxley, Brown & Jefferies. Sax, guitar, bass and drums. Led by New York/Oxford based Italian/Swiss tenor man Luca with top guitarist Colin Oxley. 6.30-9pm. Free.

MONDAY

The Jericho Tavern, Walton Street, Oxford: Blueswater. Edinburgh rhythm and blues band. 7.45pm. 07805 037924.

Rose Revived, Newbridge, Witney: Alvin Roy's Reeds Unlimited. Jazz. 7.30pm. Free.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Ben Poole, Sugarman Sam & The Voodoo Men. Haven Club. Blues. 8pm. £10 (adv), £12 (otd), £5 (student).

Truck Store, 101 Cowley Road, Oxford: Maximo Park. In store acoustic gig for alt-rockers promoting new album 'Risk To Exist'. 6pm. Free.

TUESDAY

Gladiator Club, 263 Iffley Road, Oxford: Eastside Rhythm Kings. Trad jazz. 8pm. Free.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Frankie Ballard. Michigan country singer songwriter on UK tour. 7pm. £15.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: Hannah Lou Clark. Folk-pop. 7.30pm. £7.

St Aldate's Tavern, 108 St Aldate's, Oxford: Osprey & Friends. Local rockers. 8pm. Free.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: White Lakes, Nightlife, Autumns Fall, 12 Guage. Rock & indie. 7.30pm. £5.

WEDNESDAY

Sheldonian Theatre Oxford, Broad Street, Oxford: Thames Vale Youth Orchestra concert. £10, concessions £8, children free. 7.30pm. 01235 522774.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Hodad, Holy Moments, Wolfs. Hard rock and punk. 7.45pm.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: Spectres, Shotgun Six, Year Of The Kite. Psyche-punk rock. 7.30pm. £6 (adv).

Theatre

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Apr 22, Laura Lexx, Nick Dixon, Tom Wigglesworth and Lost Voice Guy. Glee comedy. 7.45pm. £15.95. 01865 810000.

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Apr 25, *Human Story Theatre Scenes From....* Human Story Theatre focuses on new writing with a health and social care issue at heart. Hear extracts from two new plays by local playwrights, Zena Forster (*The Last Dog*) and Nick O'Dwyer (*Roof*). 7.30pm Book a ticket, and pay what you can. 01865 263990.

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Until Apr 23, *How to Hide a Lion.* Ages three to six. Various times. £8 (£6). Until Apr 22, *Pygmalion.* 7.30pm. £11.50-£28. Apr 26-29, *Hot Mikado.* Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre. 7.30pm. £11.50-£21. May 3-6, *Little Shop of Horrors.* 7.30pm. £11.50-£19. 01865 305305.

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: Apr 21-22, *The First Hippo on the Moon.* Fri 2pm and 11am, Sat 2pm. For ages three and up. Tickets £15.40-£23.90 plus £4 transaction fee. Apr 28-29, *My First Ballet: Cinderella.* Various times. Tickets £13.40-£29.40 plus £4 transaction fee. 0844 871 7615.

The North Wall Arts Centre, South Parade, Summertown: Apr 20, *Offside*. Play about women's football. 8pm. £14. May 3, *Give Me Your Love.* 8pm. £14/£12. 01865 319450.

Amey Theatre, Park Road, Abingdon: Until Apr 22, *Annie.* Abingdon Operatic Society. 7.30pm. Apr 26, RSC Live: Julius Caesar. 7pm. £12/£10. 01235 849063.

Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Apr 22, *Tweedy Lost Property.* 2pm and 6pm. Tweedy, the slapstick and clowning star of Gifford's Circus, presents a comedy about a clown who gives in to society and gets a real job in a Lost Property Office. Adults £13, concessions £11. 01608 642350.

Cornerstone Arts Centre, Station Road, Didcot: Apr 20-22, *Made in Dagenham.* 7.45pm. £14. 01235 515144.

The Beacon, Portway, Wantage: Apr 20, NT Live: *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead.* 7pm. £15. 01235 763456.

Unicorn Theatre, Thames Street, Abingdon: Apr 26-29, *The Duchess of Malfi.* 7.30pm. £10 (£9 conc). 01865 425687.

CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport

Kerr: It's phenomenal

RUGBY UNION

BANBURY head coach James Kerr revelled in the "phenomenal" feeling of celebrating a second successive county triumph.

Tries from Josh Deegan and Jack Briggs helped Bulls beat Oxford University Greyhounds 17-12 in the Oxfordshire Cup final at Iffley Road.

It was a scintillating contest, with both sides refusing to let their guard slip, resulting in an enthralling finish.

Banbury were joined by their supporters on the pitch to celebrate the club's first back-to-back county success after ending a 16-year barren run 12 months ago.

Kerr said: "These boys are now in the history books of Banbury Rugby Club. These boys will be in that club in 50 years' time telling the youngsters how they won the county cup twice on the bounce.

"I'm an alien to this world – I'm a Welshman in an English town, but I can grasp how much it means and it's phenomenal."

Banbury's Matt Goode impressed and was awarded the Ron Grimshaw Memorial Trophy.

He said: "I'm probably a good ten years older than the Oxford boys and I thought I'd better stand up and be counted.

"I said to the boys 'one of us is going to win it, so take it off me because I'm going to play my best and if you can play better than that we'll be up there', and we won."

Banbury celebrate after beating Oxford University Greyhounds Picture: Steve Wheeler

Banbury play-off bid over after Easter loss

FOOTBALL

BANBURY United's play-off hopes ended when they suffered a 1-0 defeat away to second-placed Leamington in the Evo-Stik Southern League on Easter Monday.

Mike Ford's side needed to win to have a chance of making the Premier Division's top five.

Leamington took the lead in the 20th minute, when Banbury failed to clear a free-kick and Jamie Hood hooked the ball home from six yards.

The second half was a non-event until stoppage time, when Luke Carnell's header bounced up and skimmed the bar.

On Saturday, the Puritans were held to a 1-1 draw by promotion-chasing Hitchin Town.

Zac McEachran put Banbury ahead on 44 minutes, cutting inside and beating goalkeeper Michael Johnson at his near post.

Hitchin pressed for an equaliser and on 81 minutes Robbie Burns's shot fell to McNamara, who made no mistake from 15 yards.

LATEST TABLE
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chippenham	45	30	10	5	92	47	100
Leamington	45	27	11	7	74	28	92
Merthyr Tn	45	24	14	7	88	42	86
Hitchin Tn	45	24	13	8	78	44	85
Slough Tn	45	26	6	13	83	55	84
Banbury	**45**	**24**	**8**	**13**	**66**	**38**	**80**
Frome Tn	45	20	14	11	79	63	74
Biggleswade	45	20	11	14	81	58	71
Kettering	45	20	10	15	82	65	70
Chesham	45	18	10	17	66	59	64
Weymouth	45	15	18	12	75	58	63
Basingstoke	45	18	7	20	64	71	61
King's Lynn	45	13	18	14	57	68	57
St Ives Tn	45	15	11	19	49	68	56
Stratford Tn	45	13	16	16	63	65	55
Dunstable	45	15	6	24	44	65	51
Redditch	45	13	10	22	53	74	49
St Neots Tn	45	14	6	25	66	98	48
Dorchester	45	12	11	22	51	79	47
K Langley	45	10	14	21	56	72	44
Cambridge	45	11	11	23	43	72	44
Cirencester	45	11	9	25	54	91	42
Hayes & Y	45	10	11	24	48	77	41
Cinderford	45	8	3	34	49	104	27

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ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

Try to make you a priority this week and don't underestimate your power of persuasion. Others couldn't see your point of view last week, but much has changed since then, as you're about to realise for yourself. News of a split could change the way you see this year unfolding. Ring now so I can tell you which sign can give you the happiness I know you deserve.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Many of the signs are talking for the sake of it this week and you'd be wise to believe nothing of what you hear and only half of what you see. Fresh influences in your career make your working week a more interesting place to be. Give children the benefit of the doubt this week and they will not let you down. Ring now to hear how you hold the power to achieve anything this year.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

New opportunities are all around. You just have to be hungry for success. That lethargic feeling of last week will soon be replaced by energy and enthusiasm, so keep your eyes peeled for inspiration. It's all around you. Your element of air could see you asking for commitments you don't really want, so don't tie yourself down unnecessary. Ring now to hear why I know time is on your side.

0906 585 4362

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

There are so many layers to your personality that different people would describe you in different ways. This is actually a good thing as it allows you to have both a personal and a professional life. Family want you to commit to something your heart is not in. Tell them before Thursday to avoid any bad feeling. Ring now to hear why you'd be wise to make sure you know where your passport is.

0906 585 4363

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Don't say things you don't mean just for effect. You're better than that Leo. You've come so far already this year and it's only April. Work on cementing your base plan so you have something strong to build on. Those you thought weren't ready to commit, soon will be. This is a good week to negotiate with those you found too difficult to do business with last month. Ring now for details.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

A sacrifice you made for a loved one may feel is if it's gone unappreciated, but you're about to find out that it was duly noted and not at all forgotten. Your ruling planet Mercury helps you find the words you need to get back on track with an older face. This is one week where you can finally put some sense and order back into things. Ring now so we can talk about those mixed messages in love.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Dream big my friend, as anything is possible this week with a little planning and determination. Careful of acting on the advice of those lacking experience or you could end up throwing good money after bad. Venus, the planet of love, brings out your competitive nature and you start to work on making decisions with you as a priority and not just other's needs. Ring now to maintain control.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Sometimes in life you have to take a chance to see how things will turn out. For a water sign, you've been playing things rather safe in recent weeks. All that changes as you get a nudge from Mars and decide to go out on a limb for exciting chances which can turn life and love around. Ring now so I can tell you how proud I am of how you've coped so far this year.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You start to think outside the box and you no longer worry what other people think about you. Instead, you work on making your future the best it can be. Overseas travel is well starred and, if you are thinking of booking any trips, this is the week you will find the best deals and most suitable options. Ring now so I can help you make sense of recent mixed messages you've received.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Try not to take sides in any arguments this week, as it is unlikely you will find out what really went on until May. Don't ask too many questions. Instead, listen to what other people are trying to say. If you're not careful, the very person you should be listening to is going to be fed up vying for your attention. Ring now to hear why this is an excellent week to kick bad habits.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you are heavily influenced by those you meet and you may even begin to change your mind about what you want from the future. You no longer worry about what other people think of your actions. Instead, you do what feels right and you speak from the heart. This could see the welcome departure of someone who has become a thorn in your side. Ring now for answers.

0906 585 4370

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

They don't call you the most psychic sign in the zodiac for nothing Pisces. You are so much wiser than you were this time last year, even though it took some painful lessons to get to this stage! Invites you get over the coming days have hidden connotations, but for all the right reasons. Ring now to hear why love could see you making some of the biggest changes and decisions yet.

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Different paths in the education sector

IF YOU want to want to work in the education sector but don't want to be a teacher there are plenty of alternative opportunities available:

Teaching assistants support learning activities in schools and nurseries. They work with individual children or groups of pupils. Their role is to both support pupils and carry out duties that help to free up teachers' time such as preparing the classroom for lessons. Starting salaries for TAs are between £11,000 and £15,000. Higher level TAs can earn between £21,000 and £25,000. You don't need a degree to become a teaching assistant, however you could choose to gain a teaching assistant qualification from an approved awarding body

Learning mentors work with pupils that need extra support to overcome barriers to their learning. They are based primarily in schools but can also work with families and in the wider community Some also work in offender learning and with adult learners within the education system. Work could include advising parents on parenting skills, drawing up action plans with learners, providing group activities such as anger management sessions and monitoring the punctuality and attendance of learners. Some posts require a degree and experience of working with vulnerable young people. Others need a GCSE in Maths and English. Starting salaries are in the region of £15,000 to £18,000.

The role of a community education officer is to help organise and promote participation in local education or training opportunities. You could be based within diverse communities in venues such as community centres, children's centres, libraries and churches. Within the voluntary sector salaries may start at around £18,000. In the public sector they could range from £23,500 to £28,000.

Educational administrators organise and manage the administration, support systems and activities that keep an educational institution running smoothly. They are often based in higher education establishments, however are also employed in schools and colleges. Salaries start from £17,000 to £26,000 and with experience you could earn up to £35,000.

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Inspector/Quality Controller - from £25,000pa depending on experience
Inspection of finished parts and first-offs, calibration of gauges, processing customer returns, management of ISO system and health and safety programme.
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For an application pack and more information please contact:
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The role will primarily entail
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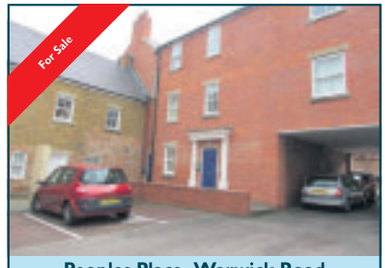

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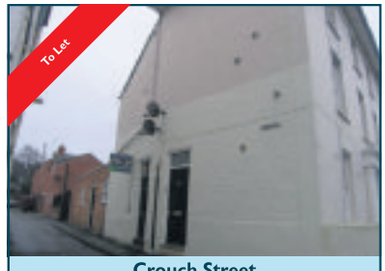

Crouch Street

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2007 57	**NISSAN NOTE TEKNA AUTOMATIC.** 1600cc. Metallic Gold. 5 Doors. AUTOMATIC. Local car. Approximately only 47000 recorded miles. Aircon. PAS. Radio/CD Electric windows. Remote central locking. Lovely condition thoughout. Sold with a full service and a new MOT. Hpi Clear. £4,495.00
2008 58	**FORD FUSION STYLE CLIMATE TDCi.** Blue. Local car. 1400cc Diesel. £30 road tax for year. PAS. Electric windows and door mirrors. Remote central locking. Aircon.Radio/CD Etc. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. Hpi clear. £2,795.00
2007 57	**NISSAN NOTE 1.4 SE.** Metallic Blue. 5 Doors. Local car. 1400 cc. Aircon. PAS. Alloys. Radio/CD. Electric Windows. Remote central locking etc. Very popular and economical 5 door hatchback. Very nice throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI clear. £2,595.00
2006 56	**FORD FIESTA 1.2 ZETEC.** Silver. 3 Door. Local car. Lovely condition. PAS. Aircon. Electric windows and door mirrors. Radio/CD Etc. Sold with a new MOT and a full service. Recent new cambelt fitted by ourselves. Hpi Clear. £2,495.00
2005 54	**ALFA ROMEO 156 JTS Veloce 2.0.** Silver Metallic. Black leather interior. Very nice condition throughout. Local car. Alloys. Air con. PAS. Radio/CD. Remote central locking. Electric windows Etc. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit. HPI clear £2,195.00
2004 54	**FORD FOCUS 1.8.** Metallic Blue. Previously sold by ourselves. PAS. Aircon. Radio/CD. Remote central locking. Electric Windows etc. Sold with a new MOT and a full service. HPI clear. £1,895.00
2005 05	**PEUGEOT 307S.** 1.6cc. 5 door. Blue. Local car. Lovely condition. PAS. Electric windows. Elecric door mirrors. Radio/CD. Aircon. Alloys. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. Hpi Clear £1,795.00
2003 03	**FIAT PUNTO 1.9 DIESEL.** Metallic dark red. 5 doors. Previously supplied by ourselves. Air-conditioning. PAS. Central locking. Electric windows. Radio. Very tidy and economical car for it's age. Sold with a new MOT a full Service and a new cambelt. HPI clear £995.00
2004 04	**HONDA ACCORD VTEC SE 2.0.** Estate. Metallic Red.Local Car. Superb car. Aircon. Electric windows and door mirrors. Remote central locking. Radio /CD. Etc. Sold with a new MOT car has recently been serviced by ourselves.

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* Source: Continental Research 2008; 41% respondents stated they used local media as a source of information when looking to buy a car from a private seller. Local media = newspaper websites and supplements.

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Your advert will appear in the Oxford Mail for a total of 6 insertions and one week online for a total price of £20 including vat, for a display size advert 7cm depth x 2.7cms wide. Additional weekly titles can be included for an additional £2 including vat.

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0% APR
£179 PER MONTH + £179 DEPOSIT

2014 MOKKA EXCLUSIV
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£179 PER MONTH + £179 DEPOSIT

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Eden Vauxhall Oxford
Oxford Motor Park | OX5 1RY
Tel: 01865 856500

Sales Opening Hours
08:30-19:00 Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday | 08:30-21:00 Tuesday and Thursday

Mokka X 1.6i Active on the road price £20,066 - Customer Deposit £999 - Part exchange allowance £4,000 -Total amount of credit £15,067 – 48 monthly payments of £199 – Optional final payment £5,673 - Representative APR 0% on Personal Contract Plan - Total amount payable £20,066 based on 24,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Astra 1.4 SRi on the road price £18,725 – Customer Deposit £999 - Part exchange allowance £3,000 - Total amount of credit £14,726 – 48 monthly payments of £179 – Optional final payment £6,274 - Representative APR 0% on Personal Contract Plan - Total amount payable £18,725 based on 24,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Corsa 1.4 Energy on the road price £12,832 - Customer Deposit £499 - Part exchange allowance £3,500 - Total amount of credit £8,833 – 48 monthly payments of £139 – Optional final payment £3,505 - Representative APR of 4.9% on Personal Contract Plan - Total amount payable £14,037 based on 24,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Adam 1.2 Jam on the road price £12,720 – Eden Motor Group price £12,392 - Customer Deposit £499 - Part exchange allowance £2,500 - Total amount of credit £9,330 – 47 monthly payments of £149 – Optional final payment £3,253 - Representative APR 3.7% on a Personal Contract Plan - Total amount payable £13,255 based on 6,000 miles per annum (other mileages available). Minimum part exchange is regardless of age, condition or mileage however, it must be driveable and in your ownership for at least 6 months – This offer is available against all New Vauxhall Cars held within Eden stock but must be delivered by the Friday the 28th of April. The minimum part exchange is as part of a Vauxhall finance agreement and supersedes any other offers that may coincide. Finance subject to status. Terms & Conditions apply. 18's and over. Guarantee may be required - Black Horse Finance St William House Tresillian Terrace Cardiff CF10 5BH.

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- VarioPerfect Technology
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- EcoSilence Drive with 10 Year Parts Guarantee
- 12 Programmes Inc Auto Dry
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